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March 2, 2010

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HONORS LEGACY OF
PIONEERING SURGEON DR. CHARLES R. DREW**

U.S. Navy cargo ship is christened and named in his honor

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today joined the Board of Supervisors in recognizing Dr. Charles R. Drew, the pioneering African American surgeon in whose honor a U.S. Navy cargo ship was recently named.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas noted that Dr. Drew developed a breakthrough process for the banking and safe transfusion of blood during a period of harsh racial discrimination that included a military order that mandated banked blood be "typed" according to race.

"Despite adversity and prejudice, Dr. Drew worked until his passing in 1950 to continuously improve upon medical methods that have been credited with saving countless lives of military personnel throughout the world," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

The late surgeon – who directed the first American Red Cross effort to collect and bank blood – was represented at today's Board meeting by his youngest daughter, Sylvia Drew Ivie, and his grandson, Drew Ivie. Ms. Ivie is Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' Chief of Staff.

Last Saturday, the U.S. Navy christened and launched the Charles Drew cargo ship. The 689-foot-long supply ship, based in San Diego, will be used to transport food, ammunition, fuel and other provisions to combat ships at sea. More than 1,300 supporters, including the U.S. Surgeon General, attended the ceremony.

“He would have been just thrilled,” Ms. Ivie said. “It's extremely gratifying, and it will be a beacon to people of all races and ethnicities that their contributions are appreciated.”

The renaming of the ship culminated the observance of African American Heritage Month.

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